Dec 9
1918

Hogarth.

Monday,

Dearest,

I am very much concerned to hear that you are diseased. For God's sake be careful. Is there anything I could get for you – either food or medicine?. Would you dose yourself with malt extract, if I sent you a bottle? I take it twice daily; I have also an excellent tonic the only one that really improves the spirits perceptibly: if I got that would you take it?

But I know your unscrupulous disposition. You read all that sort of thing with a buzzing sound like a large Bee; it's only when you come to the gossip that you pay attention, more or less like a human being. Chiefly for your sake, I went to another concert at Shelley House yesterday, & there I saw Miss Sands, Monty Sands, Katie Cromer, John Bailey & daughter, Elena Richmond, Logan, Bowyer Nichols, Ethel Sands, sitting behind me, touched me with one after bony claws & said "Now, I know you don't remember me, Mrs Woolf –" I replied without hesitation "I've just been admiring your pictures at Heals."

"O there were things I did a long time ago. I've been nursing
in France for four years.. So interesting - the
French soldiers so grateful - like my own children.
Yes, it's been a great sacrifice not to paint all
this time, but I've owed so much happiness to
France - I felt I must do something for them. ....
What a lovely picture Vanessa has at the Omega!
I do admire her thing so much ... When is she now?"
So I said very loud "Vanessa has a farm for
Conscientious Objectors." "Doesn't she find them very
troublesome?" "O no. She's her friends — Duncan
& Bunny Garnett." NYPL Poor old Ethel didn't much like
this but had to pretend that it was monstrous that
Duncan should be made to dig fields instead of painting
pictures. You can't conceive the atmosphere of opulent
respectability & refinement of mind in that room. Then
I saw old Katie bobbing her head at me. She is still
rather a superb figure. Slightly afflicted with a
twitch of the lower jaw, but well shaped especially in
the upper part of the head. Unfortunately she tends to be
too much of an aristocratic matron. However I
went up & spoke to her, & she was very amiable, though
we had nothing whatever to say, & then Elena came
across & I was, as usual overcome by feminine
charm. She hasn't much changed. I suppose she's
as stupid as a stone, but her manner is adorable.

She made me promise to go & see her, which I shall do, & tell you about it. What does one talk about to Elena? I can't conceive how she spends her day, or attempt to imagine her a Bruce performing any of the operations of nature. I'm very curious to discover exactly when & how they become so different from, shall we say, Carrington or Gentler, or Roger. It's all a great mystery. I suppose you know for a fact that they're damned? But then, after all so is Barbara. I went to tea with her at her Home-a'dimal affair, as she shared a room with a widow, in order to cheer ~~her up~~ them up. She sight of Nick was supposed to reconcile her to her own loss – not that I said anything of the sort to Barbara; but it made conversation difficult. She seemed slightly depressed, I thought, for one thing because her doctor had told her that she must ~~feed~~ feed her baby for 9 months; which she said would entirely cut her off from society, & also from rain her health, which is already giving way by the demands of nature, & she has now gone to stay with George da Vesci for a fortnight. You see how over part finds us out. I shouldn't be surprised to hear that the Viscountess wishes to renew her acquaintance with us. She takes in soldiers wives after childbirth as a charity in her house at Englefield Green. Of course Barbara is as open as a summers day, but I'm not sure that that's not a fuller form of damnation than the Philistines; because it's so transparent. However, I admit we could neither of us

show at our best under the widows eye. Judith is exactly like Nick – small featured, brown eyed, snub nosed. Adrian's Judith, according to him, is a very lively, unearthly vigorous baby, but I haven't been there. Then we had Sydney Waterlow to dinner, who told us a most dismal story of Sagon's condition. "I am bored when I am with other people, & lonely when I'm by myself" he said. He agreed that the only remedy was to find someone to marry, but he said that he had now no opportunities of meeting young women, & was inclined to think that he had better emigrate. He was not actively unhappy, according to Sydney, but completely hopeless. Of course I can't help thinking that this is a judgment upon Cambridge generally; its what happens if you go on telling the truth. You lose all generosity & all power of imagination moreover you inevitably become a complete & egoist – Please impress this upon Julian & Quentin. to say nothing of the nameless one, whom I dreamt of last night, & of course it was a boy. Roger has now told me the story about our birth. He has had his latest discovery is Mrs. McColl, as you probably know. He told her to read the Voyage Out. She asked Mrs Cox, the elderly gentleman at the London Library, for it. "That's by Virginia Woolf isn't it?" he said. "She's a sister of Mrs Clive Bell. Strange what come to those two girls. Such a nice home they had. Sir Leslie our President. But of course they weren't baptised!" So you see, how even in the London Library they

NYPL

follows us up; it thought you're slightly worse than I am; but Wm. McColl said there wasn't much to choose between us. Your life's pretty bad, but my writing is considered coarse.

Now. To the business of the woodcuts. Wouldn't the simplest plan be to share the profits? first deducting our expenses of paper & postage & possible advertisements, & your expense for wood blocks? I expect We don't count our printing time; & I expect the artist's time & the writer's time were about equal in this case. We now think of charging 1/6 an hour; so we ought each to get a certain amount. The other way would be to pay you something for each block. I wonder what your arrangement with Roger for the Omega book is? We might go by that. The idea of the marbled covers is very attractive, if it wouldn't use up all our profits. If Duncan would explain the method to Wolfe I could go & see him one day this week, & perhaps he'd give us an estimate. If it's too expensive, I should be inclined to have a plain white paper cover, with the title merely. I see We haven't print the woodcuts nearly as well as Roger's man; but apparently one ought to use a special ink, so we may get them a

good deal better than those first proofs. The printing is almost done, but as usual we have to wait for the printers press to be free. I've a good many schemes on hand for future works which I should like to explain to you. We shall probably come to Aldeburgh on the 20th or 21st, I think the showers are coming either for Christmas or after it. I should be very grateful for a line to say how you are. You might remember to say whether I can send you anything; also what are your plans for the future? - Have you got a nurse & a doctor? But I meant by the future the future of your whole establishment, which I suppose may be practically anything. NYPL At any rate it's certain to be a source of acute delight to me. I'm sending you Desmond's account of peace day. It sometimes fills one with depression to think of all the things you must have let fall upon public occasions - life in general without me to hear them - Just consider that immortal evening last summer when you summed up the situation over a bottle of wine - the cinema & the submarine. Does Duncan see what a joke you are? I trust Sebastian will.

Your B

We make out, roughly, that our expenses will come to between £2 & £3.

MANILL 6/1/66

1918

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 496

12 Dec 1918

HOGARTH HOUSE,
PARADISE ROAD,
RICHMOND,
SURREY.

The Chowes are only coming for the week end after Christmas.

Thursday.

Dearest

Of course we will have the children — there is nothing I should like better, & I will do my best not to let them come to grief in any way. Our plans are to go to Atcham on the 20th, & to come back here on Jan. 3rd. Duncan & Barry could bring them over at any time while we were there, as I will have the room ready for them. If the baby doesn't arrive till after the 3rd you could send me a telegram & I would meet them at Victoria, & bring them here. But there's no hurry about that. Suggest whatever suits you about the time of their coming — whether before the baby arrives or after.

The only difficulties I can think of are the difficulties about milk at Atcham, which I suppose we shall find it

very hard to get – Do they want a great deal? – Also, can they safely be left to amuse themselves with occasional visits most of the morning? Some mornings I have to write in order to get reviews finished. Otherwise everything would be perfectly easy, & I should enjoy it immensely. Perhaps you could let me have a sketch of their hours a meals – what time they go to bed, & whether they sleep in the afternoon – in fact any hints so that I may not get them into bad habits. Don't bother to settle how long they're to stay – I shall expect them for a fortnight & longer if it's better for you not to have them back. It's most important that you shouldn't hurry back to ordinary life. Even Barbara, in the lap of luxury, said 3 weeks was too short. As for payment, I never heard such nonsense. I'd somehow thought the baby wasn't due till the middle of January. I hope I may see you before it comes – anyhow I adore every hair on your head, which is also true of Duncans – many though they are. GB.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/2/19

17 Dec 1918

TELEPHONE:
RICHMOND 496

HOGARTH HOUSE,
PARADISE ROAD,
RICHMOND,
SURREY.

1918

Mondays.

I go to Athcham on Friday.

Dearest,

We can easily have the children on the 28th — in fact it's more convenient to know exactly when they will come. We can settle whatever suits you best about they're going to you & coming back here. Nelly & Lottie are overjoyed at the thought of having them — in fact I see you will have great difficulty in ever getting them back again. I'm going to take them to the pantomime & I've a great many plans for enjoying myself with them. I know I shall be more envious of you than ever when I get to know all their attractive ways — & of course they are the most adorable creatures

I find myself constantly thinking about them.
As for Dottie – Nelly & Dottie would much rather she did not come here, & I don't think there'll be the least need of help. But if she very much wants to come, of course I don't want to prevent her. She's never communicated at all with the servants since she's been in London; so they thought she meant to drop them after the row. I will ask Mabel to come. N. & L. are going home for Christmas; I will tell them to look out for your need; several of their friends have already gone back to service, so there may be a chance. Mrs Lucas is not in the telephone book; I believe her address is 122A King Rd. Chelsea, because I've got it down 222A & I know that was wrong. This is only about the children. If I will write again, if I can get any gossip; for having no need of affection ha! ha! B.

HAMILL 12/29/69

Dec 22
1918

3-9-2
T 10

I asked Murry to send you the Mrs. Ward; it seemed to me a masterpiece without rival - Have you reached the account of Tottie & Clara?
Would you say if you wd. like me to come before, or wd. rather wait till Asheham, afterwards.

Saturday.

Dearest,

The servants are coming here on the 27th - so its quite all right about the children. I've no intention whatever of letting them wear me out — on the contrary I expect to lead a more healthy life than usual, as I shall take them for regular walks, & spend my afternoons in the open air instead of gadding up to London. However, we shall have a few dissipations — such as the British Museum & the Pantomime - perhaps they would like a Cinema? You see how craftily I shall work in my favourite expeditions. I rather think of teaching Julian the Greek alphabet. & making them both write me essays. I will get Quentin his boots in Richmond. I don't suppose Mabel has much time off, but I'll tell her to come whenever she can. I shall leave N. & L. to do what they like about Trissie; they seem to have all sorts of feelings about her — but I daresay they'll strike up another violent friendship in the end.

I came down by myself yesterday, as Leonard had to stay till today about the Review. I should like to come over for the day one of these days, if the baby doesn't interfere. Perhaps I'd better keep my gossip such as it is until I see you; it only amounts to my tea with Elena & Bruce in

South Kensington. I despair of conveying to you, either in writing or speech, the utter & immense horror of that visit. Of course, Barbara & even Nick are as Francis of Light compared with them — the banality, the frigidity, the sterility, the respectability of that couple; & underneath perfect callousness, &, I suspect, even brutality — at any rate a stupidity so crass that they would trample you to death without seeing it. I was there for an hour; & we began by talking of country cottages, & we were still talking of country cottages when I left. Elena is a buxom matron, with white hair, but no longer more than comely. She is almost inanimate with stupidity. The sets looking at the fire like a Spaniel. And my God! what a room! She told me that her only ideas of decoration were that she liked brown carpets & blue curtains; so she had blue of the colour of bad ink, a brown of the colour of murky chocolate; walls glistening & cold as wedding cake; a few chill water colours of Pompeii; & sham Sheraton bookcases filled with shiny books under glass. NYPL Not a chair or cup out of place; a silver table; all so polished you could see your face. There were terrible pauses when she clearly was slightly afraid of me, & he disapproved. Whats the man? waste far! Good God! And they wanted to know if you'd ever let them Charleton; upon which I said "Well, Vanessa's ideas of decoration — " but I wouldn't go on. "Yes?" said Elena. "She's done most of it herself — stuck up bits of paper, you know — " Here came one of the horrid pauses. "I'm sure she must have made it look very nice" Elena said kindly; but Bruce, who'd got some sort of wits about him, was not sure. "I suppose the eldest boy is at school now," Elena continued. I couldn't go into that, so I said that the difficulties of education in the country were very great; & then we got back to country cottages again; a hen Elena had been to a delightful party at the Vaughan Williams & met Susan Buchanan. Ah my illusions are gone. B.

HOUSE 6/1/66

POST CARD

Mrs Clive Bell
Charleston
Firle
Lewes
Sussex.

NYPL

HAMILL 12/29/69

Necklace just arrived -
Exquisite & my only
remaining ~~Jewel~~ Jewel -
a thousand thanks.
May I come to lunch
on Boxing Day, if
fine, 1. P.M. &
go back after tea.

V. W.